



The International Fancy Guppy Association



Dedicated to Promoting The Fancy Guppy Hobby

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Foods for Guppies

By Dick Eisenmann

In looking for the various types of food that are best for young guppies, I think you should first try to determine what their needs are. I am not, or do not claim to be an expert on guppy foods. All I look for is what I think is best for them. When looking for or analyzing a food, the first thing I check is how high the protein content of the food is. I find that the higher the protein content of the food, the better the guppies seem to grow. if you look for a high protein and a low carbohydrate level this will help to discourage body bloat, which I believe is responsible for fatty degeneration of the internal glands.

Bloat is usually seen in a guppy that has an abnormally large chest expansion. It actually seems that the chest of the guppy is about to burst. If you can learn to spot this early enough, you can put the guppy or guppies so affected on what I call a starvation or reduced diet. This mean possibly not feeding anything for one or two days and raising the temperature. By raising the temperature you will speed up their metabolism and with the increased vigor due to the high temperature they will be able to use up some of this stored up fat. By reducing the stored up fat, they will become more active and slim down like a normal guppy. I seem to have gotten away from foods, but I wanted to let all the people that might have body bloat in their guppies know what I do to help combat this condition.

Getting back to foods, I think A HIGH PROTEIN FOOD, with a a variety of contents, is best. I use a commercially packed food with a high protein content once a day. After about one hour, I try to follow this up with live, newly hatched brine shrimp. In this way, the advantages of the live food are also helpful to the dry food. I use~ three types of dried food. One type in the morning, followed by live shrimp in one hour. A second type in the after noon, followed in one half by live baby shrimp and a third type for smaller fish of about two to four months of age. The third type of food consists of one-half Trout Chow pellets and one-half finely sifted from the first two dry foods, that I use for my older guppies. I find that when you buy dry foods, medium is too large, and fine is too small, so I sift medium type food through a nylon fish net. In this way, I get two sizes of fish food from the medium consistency, one of which is just right for older guppies and the other is just right for younger fish.

I do not feed new born baby guppies anything but live baby brine shrimp for two months, day and night. After two months of age they get graduated to this fine sired type dry food and baby shrimp.

For the evening meal, I try to give them some type of food that will last them all night. This is usually frozen adult brine shrimp, live daphnia or mosquito larva. Be careful not to put too many in your tanks at one time because if your guppies do not eat them all they will hatch into mosquitoes and your wife will get upset.

I have also used tubifex worms, which are an excellent food. But be sure to keep them under running cold water for approximately one week. In this time they will have excreted all their products, which are loaded with bacteria. Also, pick out all dead worms as soon as they are noticed, because they will spoil the whole batch, and never feed spoiled worms to your guppies.

I also make my own cooked food, which I rotate with the dry two or three times a week. In making this food I start with one pound of a special food that I mix myself which has nothing but one part shrimp meat, one part liver meat, one part beef meal, one part fish meal and one part crab meal. To this I add six whole eggs and enough water to make a thick paste. This I drop slowly into boiling water. After five minutes boiling, I take this mixture and let it settle, Then pour off the water, which is good for raising daphnia, and I have a food that looks a little like cooked oatmeal. This is put into baby food jars and kept in the refrigerator until used. Sometimes when mixing this food I add a few drops of vitamins or B-12 powder for growth. I have also varied this formula to include rabbit pellets, which are high in vegetable matter and roughage. This cooked type food seems to be enjoyed by my guppies as a change in their diet and is good for winter feeding when live foods are not too available.

I hope this article has given you some new ideas on foods for guppies.

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Filtration



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